(b) *Training*—Scheme provides for training of scavengers in the age group of 15 to 50 years in the training institutes of Central Government, State Governments, Local Bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations on TRYSEM norms. The training period should be for a maximum duration of 6 months. The stipend provided for training, ranges from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 500/- depending upon the training institute chosen and similar higher rates for training centres, cost of raw materials, allowance for tool kits, etc. The full cost of training is borne by government of India.

(c) *Rehabilitation*—Rehabilitation of Scavengers is attempted through sanction of projects costing upto Rs. 50,000/- for each beneficiary funded by a prescribed financial package comprising of 50% subsidy subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10,000/- per project, 15% of project cost as Margin Money Loan (MML) which is shared between the Central Government and State Governments in the ratio of 49:51, and the rest through bank loan. Thus, for a project costing Rs. 50,000/- the following shall be the financial break-up:

Subsidy	Rs. 10,000/-
MML	Rs. 7,500/-
Bank Loan	Rs. 32,500/-

The entire cost of subsidy is borne by Government of India. MML is provided by the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporation at a concessional rate of interest of 4%. The loan component is to be provided by banks under their priority sector lending.

Implementing Agencies

At the grass root level the implementation of the Scheme is handled by the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations. The National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) has been signed the responsibility of monitoring of the scheme as well as the task of coordination and collaboration with the SCDCs in implementing the scheme.

Implementation of Guidelines of SC/ST Commission

1933. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some PSUs/Banks/Financial Institutions and KVS are

not implementing the guideliness of National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission fully;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure the implementation of guidelines and decisions of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Commission for SCs and STs have not issued by guidelines to PSUs/Banks/Financial Institutions and KVS.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation Measures for Blinds

†1934. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANTI SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of blind persons is increasing because of continuously increasing mal-nutrition in the country and their rehabilitation measures need to be stepped up;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment of the increasing number of blind persons; and

(c) if so, the number thereof and the number of projects being run at present by Government for rehabilitation of these blind persons alongwith the number of persons benefited from these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The prevalence of blindness and the absolute number of blind persons due to malnutrition is not increasing. National Surveys (1986-89) indicated decrease in blindness due to malnutrition from 2% in 1971-74 to 0.39% in 1986-89. However, the Government is continuously trying to step up the rehabilitation measures for the blind.

(c) It is estimated that there are over 12 million blind persons in India. The number of projects being run at present by the Ministry of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.